

THE END OF THE MEAT BOYCOTT



IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD

What Church Folk Are Thinking About and Doing

THE NARROW WAY TO A BROAD LIFE.

The International Sunday School Lesson for February 27 is "False and True Discipleship." Mat. 7: 13-29. By William T. Ellis.

Two drummers sat opposite me in a dining car; one was loud-voiced, ill-bred, brazen and self-confident. The other was quieter. After the noisy one had expressed himself with finality upon many other subjects, the matter of religion arose—as it usually does arise when men talk long enough together. The man with the voice and huge Masonic charm said he was a Catholic, but that he didn't take much stock in it; that there was really no difference between Catholics and Protestants, and religion was for women anyway. Then he went on to explain his point—stumbling deeper into the mire of ignorance at every sentence. His Protestant companion assented, knowing as little, apparently, as the other, but because he made less noise he seemed not quite so much of a donkey.

That conversation was an exaggerated type of the latitudinarianism of the day. Men pride themselves on travelling a "broad" way. Their ideas upon other subjects than sport and business are vague and inexact. They do not know how to think things through; and, what is worse, they do not seem to care to learn. It could be shown that, on the plane of intellect alone, the popular broad way leads to mental destruction. Equally is it so on the plane of pleasure-seeking; the indiscriminating and unfatigued pursuit of pleasure ends in early satiety and jadedness. Still more is this true of the deeper concerns of the spirit.

Says Mary M. Vurrier:

"The way is narrow? Ay, but think how wide
The fields it leads to. Wide as hope
are they.
Into a larger life the path will guide.
What matter, then, if narrow be the
way?"

Straitened Men as Nation-Builders.

It is fashionable to sneer at the Pilgrims and Puritans as narrow men; yet if we today have the advantage of them in breadth, they still have the advantage of us in depth. Their convictions were established deeply, and on carefully-dug foundations. Well would it be for our time if we had more of the straitened-life men who know more of the glory of self-denial and of self-control than of the excesses of self-indulgence. The intense vigor and serious-

ness of their life made them strong and tremendous. Through the narrow gate they entered into largeness of soul.

While civilization is learning to think in world-terms, let us remember that all the pioneer and conquering nations of modern history have been nations of positive faith. It was a Bible-reading England that became mistress of the seas, and mother of many nations. It was when aflame with religious zeal that Spain won her colonial possessions; when her faith grew dim, her colonies slipped away, one after the other. The United States and Canada have risen to new places and power in the councils of nations, as they have displayed the Christian qualities of their manhood. We may venture to declare that it is through the straightened souls of its people that a country comes to a place of leadership in our time. The supremely important concern before America is the religious faith of her men and women.

The Universal Test.

The final arguments upon the question of religion are not in the cloistered studies of the theologians; but down amid the crowds of every day. The touchstone of Christianity, as indicated by its Founder, is a simple test. Does it bear fruit of the expected kind? A man does not have to know Greek or Hebrew in order to test the fruits of the Christian religion. Does Christianity produce holy, helpful, brotherly men and women? Does it make life sweeter, truer, nobler? Is it an uplifting or a downpulling force in society? Are men and women who today are good who would be bad if it were not for their loyalty to Jesus?

That is commonsense—as the teachings of Jesus have a way of being. Apply the same test to our broad and easy day-by-day materialism. Place that test as a plumb-line against the practical atheism that is prevalent. Make it the standard whereby we judge the loose social order of the day. What sore of showing does the lax moral code of our vaunted liberal "new thought" make in the presence of this square-edge? Judged by the sane and workable rule of Jesus, our modern life appears in a light which should stir every thoughtful person to renewed earnestness.

With rare lucidity the teacher sets forth that all this is in the nature of things. Each tree produces after its kind. As is the root, so will be the fruit. So, He pointed out, His is a heart religion. The most important fact about any man is the state of his spirit—far more important than anything Dun's or Bradstreet's has to say about him. Some folks who pride themselves upon their hard-headed practicality sneer at mysticism in religion; why, the very essence and core of Christianity is mysticism, the secret relation of the human spirit to God. There used to be widely sung a gospel song, "Is it well with thy soul?" It is little used nowadays; we oftener hear, "Work for the night is coming." But the first song holds the more important truth. The test

of all living things is their product, and their product depends wholly upon their condition at the root.

A Social Service Religion.

Mr. Man-of-the-Street airily discusses this as individualistic; he "goes in" for human "uplift," "social service" and "welfare work." It is a good modern mode to be interested in the down-trodden. Women in silks and diamonds join hands with factory girls. Shirt waist strikers find themselves whirled about in automobiles. Now that it is the popular thing for men and women to espouse the cause of human betterment we find persons going down town for a time to live in the college settlements; thereby affording themselves picturesque topics for dinner table conversations for many long months. In plain words, a deal of this "social" talk is mere faddism; it is as truly a passing fashion as the mops of store hair which some women are nowadays buying to clap on their heads as the latest thing in coiffures. Of course men should be brotherly; and of course religion should so express itself. But brotherhood is simply impossible without fatherhood.

The most social service any man can render his generation is to get right with God himself; and then to help his neighbor to get right with God. No unthinking sneers about the individualistic and selfish character of such a creed should deter a person from seeking, first the kingdom thus. Individual obedience to the word of the master is the keynote of this lesson. It is the only way the kingdom of heaven grows.

"Thou must be true thyself, ere thou the truth canst teach;
Thy heart must overflow, ere thou another's heart can reach."

The true heart, in right relationship with God, is the center of a reconstructed social order. Men will never be in right relationship with one another until they get into right relationship with God. That may be written down as an eternal verity. Mood, modes and manners change; this truth abides forever. The heart right with God is the first necessity.

The Test of Time.

Good old Dr. Charles F. Deems lay dying. A long siege of paralysis had brought him low. But at the end he managed to whisper, "My faith holds out." That is the glory of the Christian religion; it stands the ultimate tests. Jesus antedated by about nineteen hundred years the modern advertisers who stress the argument of "The Test of Time." The familiar figure of the house built upon the rock, which the storms could not shake, was used to illustrate the unshakeableness of the obedient life established upon Jesus Christ.

Like the hum-drum ways of honest thrift, compared with the rocket glare of high finance, so the life of simple obedience to the commands of Christ may seem antiquated and old-foggy. Yet it stands. Better a sure foundation than ornamental gables or plate glass windows. A big building on one of Philadelphia's main streets collapsed a few months ago without a word of warning. Such

King's
Business College

Learn Bookkeeping, Shorthand, Typewriting and English. Our graduates in demand. Get the proof. Send for Handsome Catalogue.

Address

KING'S BUSINESS COLLEGE

CHARLOTTE, N. C., or
RALEIGH, N. C.

is the fate of many a prominent life. The strength of any structure lies not in its outward appearance, but in its hidden parts. Life is very brilliant and showy today; the art of display seems to have been carried to the limit; but still the old, old lesson needs to be taught over and over again to the world, that the end tests all; and that the only sure building is that which is founded upon the rock of obedience to Jesus Christ—the best foundation for society and for an individual life.

THE ASTRONOMER REPORTS.

Unusually Brilliant Circle Around Moon Brought Usual Result, Only a Little More So—Col. Nichols' Weather Observation.

The brilliant circle (with rainbow effects) which encircled the moon—or more strictly speaking, the half-moon—Wednesday night early for several hours, and which attracted the attention and curiosity of some readers of this newspaper, was apparently satisfactorily explained yesterday. That is, so far as effect is concerned. The cause goes with the effect in this instance and we turn it over to Miss Mag. Nation and her telephonic resources and tender mercies.

"When an observant man of normal common sense grows to be seventy and more"—we plead the statute of limitations applicable to age—"he develops almost always into a weather prophet, if not a sort of astronomer of the home-made variety," said Judge John Nichols, United States commissioner, etc., yesterday.

"I did not wait till I became seventy, however, to learn enough to enable me to answer your 'telephone girl's' inquiry in today's News and Observer."

"When you see a foggy, bright circle, (or halo, as she termed it), encircling the moon you can make preparations to take your umbrella along next day or so—sure!"

"While I did not personally see the spectacle alluded to in your paper yesterday, I can readily believe your picture of the unusual brightness of the circle, and even the 'rainbow effect' to which you refer."

"The tremendous downpour of rain Thursday night, within twenty-four hours after the appearance of that infallible sign, is sufficient proof to me of your statement."

Other old citizens confirmed Judge Nichols' statement—some of them being willing to risk a bet on the affirmative of the proposition any time.

Treasury Statement.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 19.—The condition of the Treasury at the beginning of business today was as follows:

Trust Funds.

Gold coin	.....	\$861,741,869
Silver dollars	.....	486,445,000
Silver dollars of 1890	.....	3,558,000
Silver certificates outstanding	.....	486,465,000

General Fund.

Standard silver dollars in general fund	.....	\$ 5,041,623
Current liabilities	.....	94,518,788
Working balance in Treasury offices	.....	20,227,256
In banks to credit of Treasurer of U. S.	.....	35,016,268
Subsidiary silver coin	.....	21,172,485
Minor coin	.....	1,214,695
Total balance in General Fund	.....	\$0,337,334

The Best Type of North Carolina Woman.

(Charity and Children.)

Miss Mary McNeill has for two decades been the teacher of the primary class in old Spring Hill church. Little tots who were with her in the organization of the class are now men and women grown. The seeds this good teacher sowed in the minds of youth committed to her care have ripened with glorious fruitage. She especially urged upon her little boys the duty of abstaining from liquor and cigarettes, and she projected her life into the life of her little girls. On account of the condition of her health she resigned her important work, and the whole Sunday School deeply felt the loss of her presence and power.

The Wrong Seat.

He (in full uniform)—I love the smell of powder.
She (delightedly)—Oh, do you? Don't you think the violet scent is the best?—Baltimore American.